

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ABF-01 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /064 W
-----301128Z 030383 /12

R 301012Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7698
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU
SECDEF WASHDC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TH, US
SUBJECT: RTG CONTRIBUTION TO JUSMAG

REF: (A) STATE 224957 (B) BANGKOK 23439 (C) BANGKOK 26597
(D) STATE 241301

SUMMARY: RTG REQUESTS WE COMMENCE DISCUSSION RE THAI
CONTRIBUTIONS TO JUSMAG ON JANUARY 20. MISSION PROPOSES
REJECTION IN LOCAL CURRENCY CONTRIBUTIONS AS SPECIFIED
BELOW, PROVIDING ASSISTANCE-IN-KIND AND 7 MILLION BAHT
DRAWING ACCOUNT UNCHANGED. BRIEF STATISTICS ON PAST JUSMAG
PROGRAM AND MANNING LEVELS WOULD BE HELPFUL. REQUEST ADVISE
BY JANUARY 18, 1977. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE OF SEPTEMBER 26 IN WHICH WE
INFORMED THE RTG THAT THE 6 MILLION BAHT PAYMENT DUE ON
SEPTEMBER 30 COULD BE DEFERRED AND THAT WE WERE
PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS RE PAYMENT OF THE
6 MILLION BAHT AND THE MAGNITUDE OF FUTURE RTG LOCAL
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CURRENCY CONTRIBUTIONS, THE RTG HAS NOW REQUESTED THAT
SUCH DISCUSSIONS COMMENCE AND SUGGESTED 20 JANUARY,
1977, FOR AN INITIAL MEETING. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS
INITIAL MEETING WILL BE EXPLORATORY IN NATURE AND WILL
SERVE TO CLARIFY RTG INTENTIONS REGARDING THEJUSMAG
SUPPORT PAYMENTS ISSUE.

2. THE MISSION NOTES THAT ASSISTANCE-IN-KIND PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TERMS OF A 1960 NOTE AND THE 7 MILLION BAHT ACCOUNT AVAILABLE FOR JUSMAG OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS (FORMERLY UTILIZED FOR RETURN TRANSPORTATION) HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN MENTIONED AS SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION. IN FACT, THE ORIGINAL THAI PROPOSAL FOR REDUCING THE LOCAL CURRENCY CONTRIBUTION SITPULATED THAT THE 7 MILLION BAHT DRAWING ACCOUNT BE RETAINED.

3. GIVEN THE FACT THAT ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT AFTER FY 1977 JUSMAGTHAI WILL BE REDUCED BY AT LEAST HALF, THE MISSION BELIEVES, USING THE RATIONALE OF THE CONCLUDING PHRASE OF PARA 2 OF ARITCLE ;111 OF THE 1950 AGREEMENT "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND TO PROVIDE SUCH CURRENCY," A REDUCTION OF THE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTED CURRENCY WOULD BE A WELCOME GESTURE OF GOOD WILL TOWAR THE RTG.

4. WE PROPOSE, THEREFORE, THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO AGREE TO REDUCE THE ANNUAL THAI LOCAL CURRENCY CONTRIBUTION TO JUSMAG FROM 8 MILLION TO 4 MILLION BAHT FOR FY 1977 AND TO REDUCE THE 6 MILLION BAHT DUE FROM FY 1976 TO 4 MILLION BAHT. THIS WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF A RETROACTIVE REDUCTION TO 6 MILLION BAHT CONTRIBUTED CURRENCY FOR FY 1976 AND 4 MILLION BAHT FOR FY 1977. THIS SEEMS TO US A REASONABLE COMPROMISE POSITON AND LEAVES ROOM FOR A FURTHER REDUCTION IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FY 1978 OR FY1979 IF JUSMAGTHAI MANNING LEVELS ARE FURTHER REDUCED AS ANTICIPATED. THE ABOVE PROPOSAL IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THER IS NO CHANGE IN THE ASSISTANCE-IN-KIND OR THE 7 MILLION BAHT DRAWING ACCOUNT. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. FOR CINCPAC. MISSION'S INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY UNFORTUNATELY DOES OT GO BACK AS FAR AS WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO PREPARE FULLY FOR THE UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BRIEF STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF PROGRAM AND MANNING LEVELS OF JUSMAG OVER LAST 10-15 YEARS, IF AVAILABLE.

6. REQUEST REPLY BY JANUARY 18.

7. WELCOME CINCPAC'S COMMENTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY ADVISERS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO34847
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760476-0046
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976121/aaaaaatl.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 224957, 77 BANGKOK 23439, 77 BANGKOK 26597, 77 STATE 241301
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 OCT 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RTG CONTRIBUTION TO JUSMAG
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006